

Readership of over 50,000 nationwide — 1550 Howard Street, San Francisco, Calif. — (415) 861-5019 — Office Hrs. 12-5 PM

EMPRESS CANDIDATES

*THE LADY FRIEDA — Fred Hilliard**THE LADY MIKE — Mike Johnson**THE LADY FRAU — Chuck Schneider**THE LADY FERN — David Weber*

TAVERN GUILD has officially announced the candidates for Empress IX of San Francisco. They are as follows: The Lady Frieda (Fred Hilliard), The Lady Mike (Mike Johnson), The Lady Frau (Chuck Schneider) and The Lady Fern (David Weber). These are the only candidates and write in votes will not be accepted.

Last March the TAVERN GUILD voted to invite all San Francisco Bay Area residents to take part in electing the Empress de San Francisco.

To insure a vote which would include everyone, the following procedure has been established:

1. The general public wishing to vote must register during the period September 10 thru October 1. Registration cards available in all TAVERN GUILD bars will request such information as—

Real name... no camp names!
Residence address, and if they wish to be included in the T.G. mailing list.

When complete, the registration card should be returned to the bartender for delivery to the election committee.

2. Using the registration cards, the Empress Election Committee will then alphabetize, discard duplicate cards and prepare and mail the official ballot listing the official candidates; voting date, November 13, and location of voting booths.

3. There will be ONE voting booth each in Marin County, the East Bay and on the Peninsula. San Francisco will have about five booths. All booths will remain open until midnight. To vote, you should take your official ballot to any one of the voting booths, show I.D. to prove the ballot is for your use only, mark the

ballot for the candidate of your choosing and **rop** it into the locked ballot box. Each voting location will be manned by a TAVERN GUILD representative.

4. Only official ballots cast for official candidates will be counted in this election. Don't waste yours. No write-in candidates.

IN THIS ISSUE:

MEET CAROL CHANNING
and
LORELEI
by
Donald McLean

THE COMIC STRIP BALL
by
Paul Bentley

NIGHTWATCH
by
Montezuma

READERSHIP SURVEY
by
Don Jackson

Next Deadline Wed., Sept. 12th
Next Issue out Wed., Sept. 19th

PORNO KING BUSTED

Aging Gay liberationist Guy Strait, former resident of San Francisco, who operated his juvenile prono film factory in the premises presently occupied by the PRIDE Organization, was arrested last Saturday and charged with "suspicion of child molestation" and as being the world's largest producer, manufacturer and distributor of Juvenile pornographic films.

Vice squad officers ingratiated their way into Guy Strait's multi-winged mansion in Los Angeles, were a reel of "kid" pornographic movies was

purchased, resulting in his immediate arrest.

While in San Francisco, Guy Strait owned and published the LCE NEWS the first "underground" newspaper dealing with homosexual news. LCE (League for Civil Education) was primarily engaged in disseminating news concerning the homophile community, and advertising those bars and other businesses which until that time had no specific media for their advertising. Subscribers became emmbers and vice versa and some meetings were held, until finally at an annual board meeting held in one of the plush meeting rooms of the Hotel Mark Hopkins, disagreement between the board and factional elements resulted in Guy

Strait's dissolving the LEAGUE FOR CIVIL EDUCATION and its publication.

During its early days the LCE NEWS gained and won the support of most local Gay leaders among whom were San Francisco's first Empress Jose' and Mr. Bill Plath.

During the advent of the "Flower Children" Guy Strait became involved in the production of what was then "under the counter" still and motion picture photography, which was during a time when the Board of Supervisors and the Police Department relaxed their oppression of the "photographic picture art". Guy Strait then began publishing and editing several underground format papers which were sold by the jobless "flower children" up and down Haight Street.

With the popularity of the "hippie movement" his newspapers found a ready market in all parts of the world.

As the "hippie" movement began to dissolve and the "flower children" became merely "run-away kids" Guy Strait moved his operation to Europe where he became involved in various 'border-line' pornographic operations.

Guy Strait's LEAGUE FOR CIVIL EDUCATION was the forerunner for the SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, which was originally founded to process what it's name implied. S.I.R., as it is presently known, rapidly became the world's largest homophile organization earning and enjoying the respect of every member of the homophile community.

S.I.R.'s social, civic and philosophical imprint on the national as well as the local Gay community, became the first feather in the homophile hat, which was worn proudly and openly by thousands who believed they now had a liberating force representing their aims and ambitions through "responsible people for responsible action."

S.I.R. with its well edited and responsible publication - VECTOR - enjoyed the respect and admiration of both the Gay and straight liberal world for several years, until it fell into disruptive hands, badly directed programs and jealous and petty egotists.

With the fall of Guy Strait this week, S.I.R. also faces its demise when a forceful group of older members called a strategy meeting to demand the resignation of its President Mr. Frank Fitch, it's five month president. It's

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vice-president has resigned some months ago along with certain group and committee leaders.

The older forces blame the decline of S.I.R. to its rush into local and national politics making it a political organization interested more in supporting the political aims of its political chairman Jim Foster, than in the original concepts of the Society. As a political group, it cannot retain a tax-free status even with its disguises of "foundations" which are direct outgrowths of the ALICE B. TOKLAS DEMOCRATIC CLUB. It is hoped that the embittered group of members can return the once honored S.I.R. to its original format of "responsible action by responsible people."

Arrested with Guy Strait last Saturday was Melvin Cecil Reynolds, 18 years old of Cudahy, Calif. Both Guy Strait and Melvin Reynolds were held in lieu of \$100,000.00 bond.

Los Angeles police say "the film making operation recruited runaway boys from throughout the country through a contact man who advertised in underground or sex-oriented newspapers

and magazines." The police added that "boys between the ages of 9 and 15 were used in the films and photographs and some boys in this age group were found in Guy Strait's mansion when arrested." All were "runaways" from different parts of the country.

BEWARE!! BEWARE!! BEWARE!!

With the latest wave of arrest for vice offenses, many will be careless in spite of B.A.R.'s warnings and be arrested. For the person who has never endured the humiliation and fright of their first arrest, B.A.R.'s readers could learn a little of what to expect if it happens and be prepared for a shattering experience.

If you have never been arrested, you have no way of knowing what a shattering experience it will be from the moment the arresting officer says: "Hold it right there! You're under arrest!"

Your first reaction will be a sinking feeling and you'll say to yourself: "Oh no! Oh my God!" From now on you'll feel a sense of panic and the desire to run... to escape. Unless you have a 100% chance of getting away, don't run! Remember, the police have both guns and

billyclubs and they aren't at all loathe to use them. Often they just wait for that chance. Stand still and don't give them any reason to club you.

From this moment your brain starts working overtime and your thoughts start racing and the mental torture begins. Get used to being frisked. It will happen many times from now on. You don't have to answer many of the questions they ask you. Your name and address must be given and some identification will be asked for.

The arresting officer will probably call for the wagon to take you to the precinct station where you'll be "booked and charged." You don't have to tell the police where you work or the name of your employer. You'll have to empty all your pockets, remove rings and your watch and submit to being frisked again. Now you'll be put into a holding cell to await the ride downtown to the Hall of Justice or City Jail. Usually you are allowed 2 telephone calls from precinct. Who to call? Do you know an attorney? Parents? a friend? If you don't have a couple of dimes you're out of luck. It's usually a pay station phone.

The wait in the holding cell may be for a short period or it can be for hours. The holding cell is like a fishbowl. You're on display for all the station personnel to gawk at but you won't hear their remarks because the room is soundproofed.

Now the door opens and big boys in blue slap the handcuffs on and you're ready for the ride to City Jail. Upon arrival, you'll be taken to a room where you strip completely; right down to socks off. You'll be told to lift your arms over head, pull up your nuts, turn around, bend over and spread your cheeks, get dressed. Now you are put into the "drunk tank" and the thoughts are really starting



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to race like mad. Your treatment will vary only slightly if you are charged with a felony or misdemeanor. However, for a felony charge, your troubles from now on will be many and sordid.

When you are called into the next room to be fingerprinted and the mug shots taken, a real sense of desperation sets in. You begin to realize the seriousness of the situation, and when you see your fingerprints being put on 3 or 4 different cards you'll say again: "Oh my God! Now I've got a record that will be on file for the rest of my life!" Shortly after this, you'll get one more opportunity to make one phone call.

And now begins hours of jail noises. The clanking steel doors. The yelling prisoners and a hundred other unnerving sounds. The SF city jail is somewhat better than most. You'll be issued a blanket and a towel and assigned to a cell and bunk. After a long walk down an endless corridor past cells full of staring inmates, you'll be stopped while the turnkey opens the cell gate.. you're now in "stir."

Here are a few sights and sounds you'll have to endure for the next few hours, nights or longer. Most depressing of all is the gray steel bars everywhere. Gray cement walls and floors. An iron cot belted to the wall with a thin vinyl covered pad. As many as 26 iron cots per cell. A seatless commode and a little tin mirror over a wash basin. There is a constant sound of voices and the clanger of iron echoes throughout the cell block. There is a smell of jail everywhere; urine and bodies. The underwear of prisoners doing time has a gray color and the prisoners are always sharing cigarette butts. "What were you busted for?" is a question you'll be asked right at the start.

Say "assault", it sounds rough enough to satisfy their curiosity. You'll lie on your bunk and try to sort out your thoughts. Sleep won't come! What will happen to my job? What if I have to go to jail for a stretch? Will I be able to get out on bail? Will my parents and friends find out about this? How much will a lawyer cost? How much for bail? The minimum cost for startes will be \$2,000.00!!!

Six AM wakeup. Breakfast is a three-compartment tray with 3 slices of white bread, some wheat mush and powdered milk, a cup of unsweetened black coffee. Force yourself to eat. It

might be a very, very long day! One razor for all on Wed. & Sun. Now you wait! and wait!

Sometime later a guard will come through and announce: "OR." OR is good. It means Own Recognizance. If you haven't a lawyer or bail money, you are given the opportunity to be interviewed so that you may be released on your own recognizance. You wonder if the police can use this interview as evidence against you. No! Back to the cell to wait. And wait! Sometime still later, you'll be called for an interview by the vice officer or other official. You'll be told your rights but you'll be scared to death. He will read the charges against you and you can read them too. The facts star you in the face and you'll really feel desperation. However, don't say a word! You can remain silent. **REMAIN SILENT!** Don't sign anything! Repeat: **DON'T SIGN ANYTHING!** They'll tell you anything they want to scare hell out of you but **KEEP SILENT!** Back to the cell to wait and think your humiliating thoughts.

If and when you are bailed out, your possessions will be returned to you and you are free to leave the jail. But the sense of freedom is short-lived. A day or so later you're arraigned before a judge. A week after that you are assigned a preliminary court hearing. After that you are in the hands of fate and your lawyer. It is during this period that sleeping and eating becomes difficult. Your nerves will be jumping as you wonder about court appearances. Money problems. Conviction and a possible jail sentence. Disgrace.

They say it is best to expect the worst. If you get a break then consider yourself lucky. But why ruin your life and hopes by being careless. Beware! Beware!

COMMUNITY NEWS

The **GOLDEN GATE GAY LIBERATION HOUSE** is announcing a preopening food drive. Any and all can goods and food stuffs to support the **GOLDEN GATE GAY LIBERATION HOUSE** will help us to attain the expectant opening date of October 1, 1973.

The drive will run from September 7th through the 14th, the seven day drive is propagated to support the present needs for opening.

All donations are Tax Deductible.

**GOLDEN GATE
GAY LIBERATION HOUSE**

934 Page Street

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READERSHIP SURVEY

by Don Jackson

The answers to the readership survey in issue 16 have been tallied up. They show that slightly over half (55%) of B.A.R. readers are employed full time. Some 21% were unemployed. Ten per-cent worked part time, 6% were students, 4% self-employed and 5% retired. The reason the figures add up to more than 100% is that several students worked part time.

Over 84% of B.A.R. readers were registered to vote. Two out of three Gay voters (66%) were Democrats and 21% Republicans. Nine per-cent were Independants, and 4% miscellaneous (Liberatrian, Peace and Freedom, Socialist Worker and Black Panther). Most of those who were not registered indicated they were Democrats, but they were not included in the tabulation. How can you be a Democrat if you're not even registered? The registration pattern and party affiliation are very similar to the figures for the city as a whole, indicating that homosexuals do not vote as a block, but vote pretty much the same as straight San Franciscans.

One out of three (32%) of B.A.R. readers receive some kind of public

assistance. 11% get General Assistance, 5% unemployment insurance, 2% veterans benefits, 4% Aid to the Disabled, 4% student aid, 5% Social Security or Old Age Assistance. A whopping 21% got food stamps. The figures again, don't add up, because many readers were on more than one program.

Here are some figures for comparison: 22% of all San Franciscans get some kind of public assistance, 16% get food stamps, 7% Social Security or Old Age Assistance, 4% get unemployment insurance. The total welfare rate for the city is 13.5% (General Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Aid to the Disabled and Old Age Assistance). The total Gay welfare rate is 18%. But Gays undoubtedly get far less in total welfare payments on a per-person basis because most welfare Gays are on General Assistance while most heterosexuals are on the Aid to Families with Dependent Children. General Assistance pays only \$83 per month for a single man, less than half the amount per person paid on the AFDC program. Furthermore, straight welfare recipients are eligible for very low cost housing with the San Francisco Housing Authority. Single men are not permitted to live in public housing projects.

The statistics imply that the welfare programs discriminate against Gays. Although Gays have a welfare rate about the same as that of Blacks, they probably receive less than half as much money. The Gay Community would benefit by an increase in General Assistance and the trashing of the Housing Authority's exclusionary policy.

A surprising 32% said that they have been denied jobs or promotions on account of homosexuality or marital status. Readers were very troubled by this

question; a third of the respondents enclosed comments on this question. One 43 year old man commented "Advancement has been limited due to being unmarried in a big business." Another said "Not told so, but think so." Other comments included "Probably," "Many times" and "Yes, jobs denied due to marital status."

Even readers who answered "No" expressed anxiety over the question. Typical of the comments are the following: "No, but I haven't publicly declared my homosexuality," "No, but I would be fired instantly if they knew," "Not yet" and "Not to my knowledge."

The most popular drug among B.A.R. readers is alcohol, used by 85% — not surprising in view of the fact that B.A.R. is distributed mainly in bars. What is surprising is that almost as many (68%) use marijuana. Poppers, used by 40% of B.A.R. readers, were a poor third in the drug popularity contest. And 29% used hash-hish, 18% Methadine or Dexoxiophedren (speed), 12% sodium secenal or numbutal (downers), 5% mescaline and 3% psilocybin. Not one respondent admitted using heroin, but two said they used cocaine.

The figures indicate that drug use is very widespread among homosexuals, especially among younger Gays, but that there is no serious problem with hard drugs like heroin, cocaine or opium.

A big 36% of B.A.R. readers admit to having an arrest record. Slightly over half of the arrests were for sex offenses. The other half were for a wide variety of offenses — everything from drunk driving, drunk and traffic warrants to assault, embezzlement and robbery. Some 17% of the total respondents — just under half of those with arrest records — did time in a jail or prison.

Although respondents were rather specific about the non-sex arrests, most became vague about the sex arrests. One reader said he was arrested for "playing around," another said he was jailed for "Cruising Land's end," yet another said simply "toilet sex." One unfortunate had been arrested for "operating a house of prostitution, conspiracy, female impersonation, prostitution, obstruction of a sidewalk, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor." Another said he was arrested for "Sex/felonious assault — I hit the cop back."

A majority of the sex arrests were for

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lewd conduct, but a sizeable number were for prostitution, cross-dressing and contributing to the delinquency. Several readers were arrested for sodomy and oral copulation, but only one reader reports being convicted on felony sex charges.

Many of the non-sex arrests may be related to homosexuality. One man, for example was charged with "trespassing" when police caught him cruising at Ft. Funston. Another man was arrested on a marijuana charge at Land's End. Yet another was arrested on a drunk charge as he left a Los Angeles Gay bar.

Only 22% of the respondents owned their own home. For the Bay Area as a whole, 78% of the population own their own home. The low rate of home ownership among Gays is at least in part attributable to the fact that many Gays prefer to live in the close-in areas, which are mostly apartments. And many Gays, even affluent ones, prefer to live in an apartment where there are not the burdens of maintenance, yards to mow and the like.

The survey indicates that there is a great deal of turn-over in the bars. A few respondents (12%) went to bars 12 or more times per month. Most readers, however, went to bars only 3 to 7 times per month. The pattern indicates that there is a hard core of bar habitués, rather small in number, a large group that patronize bars once or twice per week and a small group that go to bars rarely, if ever.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Northeast Community Mental Health Services, Inc. announces that the Annual Election of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 1973.

Northeast Community Mental Health is a community run non-profit corporation serving the Mental Health needs of the Northeast section of San Francisco, which is the area east of Van Ness Avenue and north of Townsend.

The Board of Directors is comprised of individuals and agencies of the community. All those interested in applying for Membership on the Board should write to the Nominating and Membership Committee, 121 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, California 94102 before September 12.

If you want further information please call 441-4283.

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**GOLDEN GATE
GAY LIBERATION HOUSE
Who We Are and What
We Want To Do:**

We are a committee of eight people and members of the EMMAUS GAY SWITCHBOARD who have been asked to put together this program to benefit the survival of those people in need of help, which the switchboard is unable to do because of lack of space and funding.

EMMAUS has been concerned in the survival aspect of the community for three years. The Director has worked two years with the community, in addition to one and a half years with the switchboard itself. He knows what the needs are of the brothers and sisters who lack ability to get their roots of life planted, such as the program that has been put together by the G.G.G.I.H. committee.

**The Reason That This New
Program Has Been Arranged:**

During the last fiscal year of April 1, 1972, to March 31, 1973, the EMMAUS SWITCHBOARD crashed (housed) 1,077 persons on a one night house-to-house basis. Of this figure, a total of 225 applied for employment, and 648 had asked for help in housing and guidance in survival information. All that could be done was to refer them to people lacking and understanding of their needs, thus they gained no information. The resulting cycle has been responsible for sending many to the Welfare Office. The statistics reveal that a competent program is needed. As people change our program must be updated and improved to meet the needs of the people.

Program Outline:

Our sisters and brothers are looking for a place to live, and not just a bed for the night. Work should be found of a nature that he or she need not undergo a major change in lifestyle, feeling afraid

(living in a closet) to let it be known that he or she is a homosexual (gay). In this direction — to provide referrals which might establish vocational responsibility within the community, and stable living conditions to provide alternatives to our sisters and brothers away from the stereotype homosexual street practices. Our program is primarily survival with dignity.

HOUSING PROGRAM

Overnight Crashing:

Five nights in a row, or three nights a month. After three nights of crashing the person is informed of the ROOT PROGRAM, and that he or she has only two days left for free crashing. It is then a requirement to join the root program, after five days or to make arrangements to move.


Root Program:

The root program is thirty days of preparing a person for housing outside the Liberation House; living with other people, help with establishing a budget for running one's own home, receiving para-professional and professional counseling from the House staff or an outside agency. Persons will be encouraged to seek educational and vocational training if needed. Those who desire religious guidance will be aided in that direction. Included in the Root Program is assistance to the individual to obtain financial aid from other social service agencies.


Probation Housing

Under Root Program:

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under the same guidelines as the thirty day program, with the time limit extended to allow the individual opportunity to make adjustments and to clarify plans.

Root Program

Requirements of the Individual:

All persons living under the Root Program must devote three hours a day toward the operation of the house — shopping for food, cleaning of the house, doing the laundry, operation of the desk and phones or work at the center; a total of 82 hours of survival guidance.

These rules are set up to help our sisters and brothers who need and want this type of guidance, and to see that they get that push in the right direction. Working with the house and with people who already have an understanding of how hard it is to do anything without roots can develop a personal appreciation of achievement. The goal being, independent self-supporting, with insight on survival within the Gay (homosexual) community and the non-Gay community.

LIBERATION HOUSE

The proposed location of the GOLDEN GATE GAY LIBERATION

HOUSE is at 934 Page. It is projected that this building would be leased for a period of two years with an option to buy. The proposed price of the property is \$22,000.

Much of the work that needs to be done to the property will be provided by the residents except those areas that require the services of licensed contractors i.e. electricians, plumbers, etc.

The top floor will be used primarily for staff members including a staff lounge. The second floor will be used as rooms for transients and those persons on parole, probation or the root program.

The lower floor will primarily be used by the EMMAUS GAY SWITCHBOARD to continue their services for survival.

BAY AREA REPORTER

Advertising information in B.A.R.
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The Empress CONNECTION

Maxine
Empress de San Francisco VIII

PRIVY CHOOSES CANDIDATES

This year's selection of Empress Candidates 1974 was obviously voted wisely by the Privy Council consisting of thirteen members of the Royal Family de San Francisco.

However, this year's choice will be the choice of the public. Public voting has gone back to the people, ONLY through Registration in all (Gay) bars.

Cards are filled with your proper name as said in your means of identification (no alias's) and address, and handed to the bartender, which later will be on a list, alphabetically at the time of the voting in November. The East Bay, Marin County and the Peninsula has been notified with representatives to be ready.

Voting (with proper I.D. shown) will be (1) one day only with your area of registrar at a specified time to cast your vote and the closing time of polls. A representative from the Empress voting

Committee will be on hand at the time the casting of the last ballot is entered.

the ballot will be in (2) two parts. It will be perforated with the Empress Candidate names on one side to mark and vote, the other your name and address.

See the Official Empress poster for information and vote wisely of your choice.

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NOW SHOWING—One Week through Wednesday, September 12th—

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GREEN ROOM SCORE (Dimension)
YOU CAN'T RAPE THE WIL LING (Apollo)
FEEL MY FIST (Apollo)
HUSTLER'S DREAM (Grand Prix)
DUNE BUGGY DUDES (Colt Studios)

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and yes, they're in heavy,
hard action together!

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a film view

BY MONTEZUMA

If you wish to catch a prime example of a "50's style" mystery with top stars in stylish clothes, you don't have to wait for "Midnight Lace" to hit the rerun circuit on TV, just hop down to the Northpoint where Elizabeth Taylor is screaming forth in "Night Watch." It's not that it's a bad picture for the voluptuous Miss T. (I think it's rude to call someone so beautiful — fat), I mean she has done worse, god knows, but then again, she's done better.

It all takes place in Liz's London townhouse situated next door to a broken down wreck of a mansion where the terribly rich (gowns by Valentino, hair by Michael John) Liz dwells with her husband, Laurence Harvey (it's nice to see them legal after "Butterfield 8") and her best girl friend, Billie Whitelaw. But

suddenly that summer, Liz starts to see things which neither the audience nor her co-stars can see. Bodies, first one — with his throat cut and blood all over — then a young blonde equally messy. It's always raining with flashes of lightning and lots of thunder, so naturally poor Liz is afraid. She rambles about — can't sleep or eat (how she keeps her strength or her weight up is hard to say, but I think the Spanish housekeeper may be slipping her tacos between storms) and suspects everyone and everything that moves of being against her. Harvey's scenes differ between "you know I love you" and "how can we help her." Well, it's not long before the poor thing is going completely bonkers, calling the police at midnight to investigate non-existent bodies etc. It all works it's way to the climatic "surprise" twist ending which again amidst lightning, screaming and blood.

Although the film is on a better production plane than say "Straitjacket," "Lady In A Cage," "Baby Jane" or others of that ilk, I still couldn't get over the fact that I didn't expect Liz Taylor to do this kind of "mad" movie at least till she hit 50. Of course, she could always make her "comeback" in a musical!! The "switch" ending wasn't that hard to figure out if you're a fan of this genre of film so even that doesn't quite save it from being a "B" movie with "A" stars.

Directed by Brian G. Hutton, who did the same for her in "X, Y, & Zee", Miss Tylor-Hilton-Wilding-Todd-Fisher-Burton manages to look hysterical while chic for most of the film and I must admit that some of the dialogue would have choked

other actresses. It's easy to see why the stage version went over like a dull knife. Mr. Harvey tries valiantly but turns in yet another of what is fastly becoming a petrified performance. The only one who seems to be involved beyond the "well, it's only a movie" feeling is Miss Whitelaw.

I look forward to Liz in her next epic, "Ash Wednesday" as the synopsis has her as a fifty year old wreck "who goes to Europe for a massive body sculpture and emerges from the long, painful procedure as a beautiful, desirable young-looking woman." It'll be fun to see Liz in a science fiction pix.

Well, ta till next time they let me out for frivolity and film... keep that card and letter coming in...

Luv



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Judith Crist, NEW YORK MAGAZINE

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MEET CAROL CHANNING by donald mclean



CAROL CHANNING comments on past and present triumphs, her reaction to her look-a-likes, and how it feels to make the White House list.

And what does the legendary lady herself have to say about her "Lorelei Look-A-Likes"? Says Miss Channing, "Do you know... that really is... I've always understood in the theatre that it is a great honor to have the Lorelei's, to have transvestites imitate you or dress up like you. I consider it a tremendous honor, because I know when I do Marlene Dietrich or anyone else, Brigitte Bardot or someone, it's because I adore them. It's because I love them dearly and appreciate every move they make and every sound of their voice. Really, I was terribly touched by it. It was really an

honor because they were wonderfully behaved. Very respectful and were an enthusiastic audience, naturally... they were a wonderful audience and a very sophisticated theatre audience... but they never took over, they never wanted to make chaos out of the show. They wanted to see a good show." And of the madness and glamour before the show, with the arrivals tying up traffic in front of the Curran Theater? "It was like a Hollywood premiere... This was a very grand affair, with their limousines arriving and search lights and photographers. It was like the opening of the opera. I was proud, really I was. When people consider

you worthy of noticing your little foibles and quirks and ways and all that, it's really... I'm touched. It could only happen in San Francisco. It couldn't happen in any other city!" And of her look-alike winner, Pat Montclair? "Oh, she's much prettier than I am!"

San Francisco is Carol Channing's hometown. Born and raised here, she went to Bennington College and then to New York, where success and acclaim took their time discovering this 5'10" blonde with the saucer eyes and incredible voice. It was Gower Champion, later to direct her greatest triumph, who cast her in "Lend An Ear" and let the critics discover her. And Oliver Smith brought Anita Loos to see the show and discovered their Lorelei Lee. In 1949, with her name below the title, Carol Channing opened in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" on Broadway and one week later, her name was moved to above the title, where it has stayed ever since. Then came the national company of "Wonderful Town," her smash Las Vegas nightclub act, her one-woman evening entitled "Showgirl," which she toured all over the country and then New York (just as she is doing with "Lorelei"), a summer stock tour of G.B. Shaw's "The Millionairess," which broke box office records wherever it played, and then "Hello, Dolly!". The morning after "Hello, Dolly!" opened on Broadway, the critics were rapturous in their praise, there was a line two blocks down 44th street just waiting for a chance to buy a ticket (David Merrick kindly served coffee on the sidewalk while they waited) and Carol Channing had made theatrical history a second time. She won The Tony Award, Critics Circle Award, and played 1,273 performances without missing a single one. You would therefore assume, with all this to her credit, that she knew "Dolly" would be the enormous success it proved to be before it ever opened. Not true. "Hello Dolly" was a terrible flop out of town until we got it open in New York. Of course, we only had 2 months to fix "Hello, Dolly!", and I never want to go through that again. People were walking out before we even got to the "Dolly" number. At the last minute, they made a one hundred thousand dollar change. Mr. Merrick took a gamble that it would be change for the better. Gower Champion changed the entire second half of the first act and it

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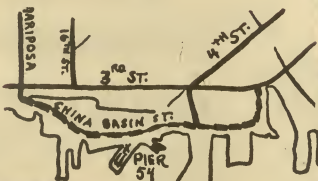
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was brand new on opening night in New York. It was a big chance whether it was change for the better or not. But to try things out in front of the critics, I never want to do that again. Ohhh, it was just agony to do it and we hardly knew our lines." That's why this time, she's taking no chances and touring "Lorelei" before bringing it into New York while making sure it's ready. "Thank goodness, I have this nice long pre-Broadway tour and the road is where it's happening." Besides, as her dear friend, Lynn Fontanne, told her, "It is your duty to the theatre, darling, to tour the provinces." Miss Channing loves touring. "Well, if you like the theatre and that is your work, there's no point in going halfway into it. The only thing to do is devote your life to it, and I'm fortunate that I have a family that adores theatre just as much as I do."

She's also made three movies, but only one she will discuss. "I've only done one film, really, and that was 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'. That was fun. I got nominated for an Academy Award. I was so proud of it. It was the biggest grossing movie Universal ever had until 'Airport'. There was also a little epic called 'The Traveling Saleslady.' "Oh, I don't even remember that. It starred Ginger Rogers. While we were making it, it had no script. Thank goodness, it was so bad that nobody ever saw it. We used to call it 'Death of A Saleslady' while we were making it. We knew it was just terrible... There was just no script there, so Ginger's mother finished writing it... Just terrible... You know, it closed R K O!" Otto Preminger's disastrous comedy, "Skidoo," she will not even see, much less talk about.

Miss Channing also recently made that famous White House List. Asked how it felt to be listed as an enemy of the White House, she beamed enthusiastically and

said, "Oh, I think it's a great honor. Aren't you proud of me? Really, it's such a silly list. I don't know. I just don't know how I got on it." (Possibly by singing "Hello Lyndon" at the Presidential Convention a few years back?? Just asking.)

The vivacious blonde is subject to something like 37 different allergies, not the least of which is makeup. Every column has carried the story of her carrying her own health food and Tiger's Milk with her wherever she goes, be it a cocktail party or Sardi's. But there must be something to it, because standing right next to her, you are amazed at the youthful smooth skin of a teenager and the firm body, plus the genuine vitality that radiates from her constantly. Perhaps that is the reason audiences feel so comfortable with her. There are none of the "star" pretensions, though God knows she's earned the right, or the artificial phony "Just plain folk" put-on. She is active, concerned and totally involved with her audiences. She may be found on Matinees serving coffee in the lobby before the show, talking with the "ladies". Of course, it's good business. But Carol Channing has always given all she could and just a little more onstage and audiences have responded in kind. When Pat Montclair was asked how he felt about winning as Carol Channing's best imitator, he said, "I'm really flattered and honored because, to me, Carol Channing is one of the very few remaining stars who is always glamorous and completely unlike anyone else. Once you've seen her, you'll never forget her and you can't compare her to anybody else. I've always thought Carol Channing is what a star should be but so seldom really is!" And that just about says it all.



The adorable Miss Channing — a star with charisma

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General Happenings

Tidbits by the Bay



DOWNTOWN

S.I.R.'s big Fall Fair will be held at 83 Sixth St., Sunday, Sept. 16th. The rumor S.I.R. is moving is true. Where or when won't be decided until the Sept. 5th meeting.

Lincoln (TRAPP) made a trip to Hawaii to see his new grandson. Now we can really call him Grandma?

You have to see the darling cub scout at the KOKPIT!! Glen, can you see Fat Lips as den mother? Oh, well, she's been everything else.

Ask Bobbie (TRAPP) who Big Meat is. PIER 54 is something else. It's the only place I've found that the meat is too big for the plate. Heaven food, and for that mental therapy, the wine decanters are fun to play with.

Naomi, Rev. Sandmire, Jim (ACTION

mag.) and yours truly wish to say thanks to the Berry Kids at the WILDE OSCAR for being so nice to us. Carl, did you really have an appointment?

A Big Tip of the Brim to Paul Bentley for a wonderful evening at "Lorelei." After Bob (RAMROD) and I got through the crowd, we had one of the most fun evenings ever. Herb Caen had so much fun he followed us to the ALLEY CAT and bought us a drink.

WARM BELT

You have to try THE MINT for dinner!! Wed. is my favorite night, and it's not true. Tommy Turner is not running!

The RAINBOW CATTLE CO. now has special dinners every night. They now open at Noon and two very nice boys are serving lunch.

Don't miss your last chance to meet the VECTOR Cover Boy Contestants at the WATERHOLE NO. 3 Thurs., Sept. 13th. The WATERHOLE bus will be going to Sacramento the day of Sunday, Sept. 9th. Seats are limited and free, so give them a call. We plan brunch at THE UNDERPASS, some time at the beach and a farewell party at the HIDE & SEEK. It should be a fun day.

Is it true the girls at the TWIN PEAKS never oil the front door just to keep Hank awake? Check out the new bartender Luther. My, what big blue eyes you have, my dear!

The new bartender at THE MINT is Arline (between 2 and 5). If you want to get on her good side, ask her for a blender drink. It's her first time behind a bar.

Thank you, Dog Lady, for a wonderful chicken pot pie. You are a good cooker. Try her goodies on Sunday. Thank you, Mr. S.F., for the Bromo. No, I did not take it.

A Tip of the Brim to Sally. TOAD HALL has never been so together.

Kisses to one of my favorite people, Jackson at the FICKLE FOX. Sorry I missed you, T.J., but I consoled myself with blond Don.

The Great Race is coming. Ask the Dog Lady.

CHINESE CHECKERS

Did you know that Linda (NEW BELL) is now pushing booze at GOLD STREET?

I am sorry to report Rome is no longer at the HOUSE OF HARMONY, nor Jerry. However, Terry Taylor (HAVOC HOUSE) has moved to the HOUSE OF HARMONY.

John (that heaven number) has left JACKSON'S and is now doing his thing at the YACHT CLUB.

Reggie (SUTTER'S MILL) moonlights at the PENDULUM.

Rose B. (1001 NIGHTS) is now at the WINDJAMMER.

Minnie is now at JACKSON'S.

Mike Johnson is back at the POLK GULCH.

George (BLUE & GOLD) and Howard (LUCKY CLUB) are now with 1001 NIGHTS.

Tom is the new doll at the CLOUD 7. They will also be adding Rome to their staff soon.

Joe Gorman (formerly cook at the YACHT CLUB) is now at the 527.

Bobby Pace (1001 NIGHTS) is now at

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Rec'd

the CAMP GROUNDS in Berkeley.

Danny (a very heaven number) at the CITY DUMP moonlights at the WILD GOOSE.

Momi Starr can now be seen banging her box at the HOUSE OF HARMONY.

AROUND TOWN

Did you know GOLD STREET is back in the lunch business? Well, they are Tues., thru Friday, 11 till 3 PM.

Jim Elkins really had a big shock when the cops ran over his garage and demanded a ladder. Seems two queens were doing their thing in a sleeping bag in his backyard. In broad daylight yet.

Glad to see Glenn Schmoll back in town. Seems he is suing that L.A. newspaper. Tut, tut. Will they ever learn?

Congratulations to Lee and Lee (NEW BELL) on their 16th Anniversary. Here's to the next 16.

The Stanford Student Union will have their back to school bash at BIG TOWN.

To that Miss Informed S.F. columnist (you know, the one that's so well loved he is afraid to sign his name): the only means I live beyond are my own. Do I smell sour grape?

The CAMP GROUND in Berkeley is having their grand opening Sept. 6th (they now have booze), and according to the oldest B girl in town (John), the bartender is heaven and so is the food. It is, it is, I know!!

Roberta and yours truly "do not appreciate their president referring to the Board as "You F-king people!"

Bill McWilliams predicts the END UP will be the new in dance bars.

The OLD STAND will be open for lunch and brunch in about a week.

Roxann, we all know everyone's shortcomings. Can't you find something

nice to write about people? Really, the kettle should not call the pot black.

There will be a meeting at the 527 CLUB Mon., Sept. 17th, at 9 PM. If you never go anywhere else, you owe it to yourself to see Rio at Carnival. Space is limited.

Don't forget to vote at the Miyako Hotel Sept. 15th for Emperor. Check your favorite bar on info. on the free bus what will take you there and bring you back.

The Mister Muscle Man Contest will be held at BIG TOWN Sunday, Sept. 16th. By the way, check out their new menu. You won't believe the prices and the food is great. With Schatzi, what else?!

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Perry

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"LORELEI" A SENSATION!

by Donald McLean

Thursday night, August 23rd. Between 7:30 and 8:30, over 1000 spectators jammed Geary Street in front of the Curran Theater to see the "Lorelei Look-a-Likes" arrive in grand style. Onlookers cheered vociferously each new arrival. The cast of PLAZA SUITE arrived in a limousine, with Faye, Nancy, Billie Woods and Brandie Bazooms making the front page of the 'Chronicle' the next morning. Luscious Lorelei arrived in a short rhinestone evening dress topped off by motorcycle boots and a black leather jacket with "Luscious Lorelei" spelled out on the back in studs. As Lorelei, Empress Shirley, and escorts Richard, Bob and Rick slowly wended their way through the yelling throng, subscription ticket holders in the lobby smiled, applauded and a few stood aghast. All the major television networks covered the event, plus A.P. and U.P. The street was so jammed that the number 38 Geary St. bus could barely make it through (but it received a round of applause too!). Pat Montclair, Lori Shannon, carrying Tiger's Milk (Miss Channing's favorite health food), and Bryan Marshall serenaded the star for Channel 7 in the lobby with a hearty baritone chorus of "Hello, Dolly," attired in beads, feathers, mirrors and tons of blonde hair. Hundreds of photographers shot endless



Lorelei
Photo by Walt Jebe



Lori Shannon presents Miss Channing with Tiger's Milk, as Henri howls.

photos of each new arrival while reporters shoved microphones to catch opinions of those lucky ticket holders. It was a gala spectacular, resembling an old-fashioned Hollywood premiere. The curtain was held for fifteen minutes to accommodate those trying to get through the mob to their seats. As Luscious Lorelei signed autographs in his box seat on one side, Montclair and Shannon arrived in their opposite box just as the lights started dimming. The Gay audience present loved this bit of timing and gave them another round of applause, as the musical conductor smiled tolerantly and then nodded, as if to say, "May we start now?"

Throughout the show (see review), the crowd was enthusiastic, responsive but never intrusive. It was obvious the cast was "on" and the audience appreciated the spark coming from stage and responded accordingly. Certainly, no one could say the Gay audience vied for attention with the show. They were a

rapt and attentive audience, and that special electricity that happens very rarely in the theatre was present that night, as the love flowed back and forth across the footlights.

Following the show, and Miss Channing's winning curtain speech where she said "Where else but in San Francisco could so many beautiful blondes sit under one roof? Right after the show, we're going to a party to judge a Carol Channing Look-a-Like Contest, but I'm not entering, I'm afraid I'd come in last!", the majority of the audience moved down the block to the Crystal Room of the Bellevue Hotel for a private party. Over 400 guests (and a few gate crashers) awaited the arrival of the star to begin the contest. What many people didn't realize was that the cast had played a matinee as well as the evening performance that day, and then they all turned out for the party afterwards. As Miss Channing arrived, in blonde pageboy bob and wearing a Yves St. Laurent



2nd Runnerup was Storm of the Peninsula, in a sequin sailor outfit.



Bryan Marshall dazzled her in feathers.

Photo by Walt Jebe



Ty Lindstrom of the FROLIC poses for a photo.



Star, sponsor & winner... Carol Channing,
Luscious Lorelei and Pat Montclair.

Photo courtesy of BIG TIME



C. Channing & H.L. Perry.

Photo by Walt Jefe

tuxedo, she was greeted by Luscious Lorelei and escorted to the platform while Denis Moreen of the FICKLE FOX played and the entire room sang "Hello Carol." Miss Channing joined right in leading the singing, beaming appreciatively. She then introduced her panel of judges, who would select the best Carol Channing look-a-like. Herb Caen, noted San Francisco columnist of the 'Chronicle,' Irv Kupcinet of the 'Chicago Sun-Times,' who flew in just for this event, and members of the "Lorelei" cast, — Peter Palmer, Lee Roy Reams, Brooks Morton, John Mineo, Bob Fitch, Brandon Maggart — plus her two personal dressers.

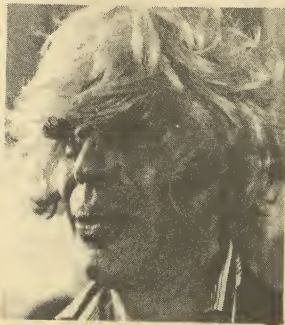
The parade of beauties began. There were 22 actual contestants, running the gamut from "trippy" to terrific. As Lori Shannon announced each name to the judges, Lorelei would escort the contestant to Miss Channing, who posed for photos with each one and made a point of getting their names correct and

then introducing them personally to the

judges, with a few nice remarks to each one along the way. Tamara Long, Jean Bruno, Dody Goodman and the rest of the cast stood on the sidelines to applaud each candidate. It seems a shame that with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the impersonators of our city, not more of them took the chance. After the last introduction, the judges announced that Storm, of the Peninsula, was the runner-up winner in his red-and-silver sequin sailor costume, and that Pat Montclair of FINOCCHIO'S, resplendent in a rhinestone gown and jewelry everywhere, was the winner of the Carol Channing "Look-a-Like" Contest. As the real and the imitation hugged each other, a barrage of flashbulbs exploded and Pat was presented with a rhinestoned trophy. However, Miss Channing said, "Flowers wither and trophies tarnish, but diamonds last forever!" and then took off a ring on her finger and presented it to Pat with the

thought that summarized the entire evening: "Now, you have our diamonds... and we're certainly your best friends." Exuberant but exhausted, Miss Channing took her leave shortly afterwards, signing autographs all the way out to her car as onlookers screamed their approval.

Certainly, it was the most sensational event this city has seen in years, and the only Gay event that has received national coverage, with newsmen flying in from all over the country just to cover this one night. And, best of all, the straight press commentary has been remarkably unsnide, giving credit for just what it was — a fun camp affair done in the best of taste. It was an event that will set a high standard to top for future functions, but we need more such events. Much deserved thanks should go to Luscious Lorelei for thinking of such a novel and fun idea, and most of all, to that glamorous and gracious star, Miss Carol Channing, for being a good sport and a true friend. to the Gay Community.



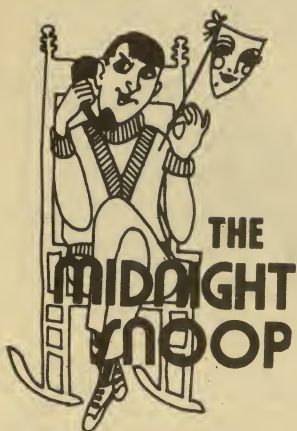
Cam met his idol. Photo courtesy of BIG TIME.



The startled star greets the outrageous
Pola del Vecchio. Photo by Walt Jefe



Fat Fairy made a definite impression.



by Donald McLean

LORELEI...AND CAROL CHANNING

When the overture swings into "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend", the audience applauds. The curtain rises, Carol Channing throws back her widow's veil and a four minute ovation ensues, before she has said or sung a word. It's



Tamara Long & Carol Channing holding the show together.

quite obvious that reviving the little golddigger from Little Rock is a great idea; the public adores Lorelei Lee/Carol Channing! Lorelei is a bit of Americana, of an age of comparative innocence we can only chuckle at today and dimly recall. She's outlandish, preposterous and totally lovable. It is the role that made

Carol Channing a star and Miss Channing has returned the compliment by making Lorelei Lee a musical comedy immortal. The batting wide-eyed naivete, the squeaky little voice that can drop to a basso profundo at a moment's notice and her single-minded quest of expensive gems, plus a couple of standard hit numbers, make LORELEI a very entertaining lady as played by the wonderful Miss Channing (if you are one of that small minority who just don't like Carol Channing, stay home — you'll hate the show!). Carol Channing is a totally unique performer, with a style and charm that warrants the word "inimitable". She has thousands of imitators, but the original is still the best. She is one of the few stars left who can hold an audience in the palm of her hand just by her presence on a stage. Audiences adore her.

Comden and Green have wisely directed the show around Miss Channing, giving her every opportunity to play front and center talking to her "friends," the audience. She comments on the proceedings from her diary (the whole show is a flashback to the 20's). It is an obvious star vehicle for one woman, and I'm afraid without Miss Channing at the helm, it would be a very dull evening. Even she has trouble making a perfectly dreadful first act closer entitled "Men" work. Of the new numbers Jule Styne and Comden & Green have written for the show, the best is a delightful duet titled "A Girl Like I," which La Channing and Brooks Morton, as Lord Beekman,

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Photo by Dave Randolph, S.F. Chronicle.

THE MIDNIGHT SNOOP (Continued)

romp merrily through. It's a charmer.

Receiving second billing, although her part hardly warrants it, is Dody Goodman, playing the alcoholic Mrs. Spofford. It's a cute little cameo role admirably handled by Miss Goodman, though she is virtually inaudible in the singing numbers. Leaving no doubt in anyone's mind who is really second-in-command is Tamara Long, playing Lorelei's sidekick, Dorothy. With a big belting voice, a wise smile and an abundance of personality, she stands toe-to-toe with Miss Channing in holding the show together. Her "I Love What I'm Doing" is one of the best moments of the evening. The brightest new addition to this updated version of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" is Tamara Long's performance.



Peter Palmer... he gets the title song and Miss Channing.

Of the men, Peter Palmer and Lee Roy Reams offer solid performances supporting the ladies, Misses Channing and Long respectively. Mr. Palmer plays the stuffy Gus Esmond with appropriate restraint, and sings the new title song (which is catchy but forgettable) in a fine baritone. Mr. Reams is boyishly engaging in a role that could easily become dull in



Lee Roy Reams... Dody Goodman plays a daffy alcoholic mother.

less capable hands. He manages to invest the slightly stuffy Henry Spofford (come to think of it, all the men's roles are slightly stuffy and all the ladies wise and knowing; Anita Loos comment on Women's Lib? Perhaps Miss Loos was ahead of her time.) with an easy affability and charm. John Mineo and Bob Fitch, as a pair of dancing detectives, support Miss Channing in the bona fide showstopper of the show, "Mamie is Mimi". Their Laurel and Hardy comedic choreography is excellent. Brandon Maggart, with his busy footwork and constantly moving hands, seems more like a punchdrunk prizefighter than a health fanatic.

I understand the show is currently being re-worked, with several new production numbers to be added during its engagement here. This hopefully will boost the show from its now uneven pace to its full potentiality of a fast, breezy musical. The costumes, particularly Miss Channings, are excellent, the sets adequate but uninspired, and the choreography by Ernie Flatt ranges from dazzling to hum drum. But, of course, the biggest asset of the show is to hear Carol Channing recreate "Little Girl from Little Rock," "Diamonds" (the finale of the

show), and that marvelous tribute to a bygone era, "Homesick Blues." With the possible exception of "A Girl Like I," there is nothing new in LORELEI that can surpass the original score-wise. The book has been tightened, but the laughs seldom rise above chuckles. The fact that LORELEI is a very pleasantly entertaining show, with a few moments of genuine excitement along the way, is a tribute to Carol Channing and her talented co-workers. You'll enjoy LORELEI; you'll remember Carol Channing!!

GLITTER AND THE GAY

MR. ROBERTS AUDITIONS

Auditions for the CITY PLAYERS production of "Mr. Roberts," to open Nov. 17th at THE VILLAGE for two weekends, will be held Sept. 16th from 2 - 5 PM and Sept. 17th from 7 - 9 PM at THE VILLAGE. The play will be both produced and directed by Carl Berry, president of the GOLDEN AWARDS. This is an all-male cast of all males, no drag roles, so for those who have felt local theatrics have been unfair in catering to shows starring drags, here is your golden opportunity. Not a musical and a large cast requirement, so a chance for all!

ANGELA IN LONDON

A sneaky friend slipped me an advance copy of the London cast recording of "Gypsy" starring Angela Lansbury. Miss Lansbury is reputedly the hottest star to hit London in many a year, and after hearing her Mama Rose, it's easy to hear why. This version is far superior to the Merman Broadway album of many years ago technically, and the arrangements of "Let Me Entertain You" and "Together" are showstoppers, even on record. The only major disappointment is the throwaway cut of the great stripper number, "Ya Gotta Have A Gimmick." Now available at the RECORD HOUSE, Polk and Post Sts. Definitely a must for any show collector!! Also, I found the best recording of "Kismet" ever made at SEA OF RECORDS, the Phase 4 version with Robert Merrill that is impossible to find. TWO BIGGIES INTO FAIRMONT

Miss Peggy Lee will return to the Venetian Room on Sept. 13th for ten short days. Last year when she was here, although hit with the stiffest cover charge in memory, she packed the room nightly

(Continued Next Page)

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Fri., Aug 24, 1973

San Francisco Chronicle

THE MIDNIGHT SNOOP (Continued)

and rightly so. And Joel Grey has had to cancel his Oct. 4th opening for a movie commitment, so the master clown, Red Skelton, will replace him. Two blockbuster acts definitely worth seeing, if you can afford the tariff.

NEWS FROM PARADISE

David Kelsey, now playing at the HOUSE OF CHARLES in Honolulu phoned the other day to say he is the first "organ player/drag queen" the islands have ever seen. "I went up to Diamondhead, which is like our Land's End, and had to sue the bushes for whiplash!" David also said he went to THE GLADES to see the show. There followed a maniacal laugh and then he reported, "It's the first time I've ever seen an arthritic hula!!" He occupies his spare time groping cocoanut trees and sounds very happy.

QUICKIES

George Buchanan held over one extra week, with Charles Pierce returning to GOLD STREET on Sept. 18th.

PLAZA SUITE opens Sept. 15th for two weekends, with Chuck Waltz, currently of the A.C.T. acting school, starring in three different roles.

The Mattachine Newsreel at ADONIS BOOK STORE this week features all the "Lorelei" contestants being presented at the Contest, so go catch yourself onscreen.



Gunther Gebel Williams... Animal Master of RINGLING Bros. Circus and star of the evening.

This year's Ringling Bros. Circus was absolutely sensational, and the new edition of the Ice Follies is a vast improvement over last year's pitiful effort. Olympic star Janet Lynn quietly previewed her new act here without billing, to open in L.A. officially. At

performance caught, the audience gave Follies finale a standing ovation; of course, it was a stirring patriotic flag-waving number with the entire cast eating apple pie and kissing babies (but I loved it!).

Speaking of "Follies," San Franciscans will finally get an opportunity to see the Stephen Sondheim musical that never made it past L.A. at Circle Star Theater in Nov., with a cast of old-timers not heard of in recent years. Biggest name is Vivian Blaine, plus Robert Alda, Lynn ("Bridge of San Luis Rey") Bari, the incomparable Hildegarde and Selma Diamond.

As Raymond Scott leads the orchestra to a soaring climax, we hear — "So long for a while, that's all the songs..."



EMPRESS MAXINE'S COMIC STRIP BALL by Paul Bentley

Despite the absence of one or two self-appointed community leaders, Empress Maxine's Comic Strip Ball was an outstanding success, even without such character representation as "Two Face" and "Garbage Mouth."

The Grand Ballroom of the Jack Tar Hotel finally got it all together and rendered excellent bar service to several hundred reveling comic strip characters as they danced, socialized and in general had a wonderful time, viewing and discussing the funny costumes present.

Bill Roberts, the Dog Lady, who was outstanding, was the Best Female winner; dressed as you might expect as Mammy Yokum, complete in every minute detail as Li'l Abner artist Al Capp depicts her. Big nose and all.

Sharing the honor as Most Authentic was Busty O'Shea and John Carlyle as Mr. & Mrs. Hagar the Horrible. Best Male was Mike Wright as Mr. Spock. The Best Group was Bryan Marshall and Jack Kim as Broomhilda and Funny Friend.

Of spectacular interest at the Comic Strip Ball was a star-studded table that included Dody Goodman and Lee Roy Reams from the "Lorelei" show, who acted as judges. They received a standing ovation for spending their one off night with us. Carol Channing sent Maxine an orchid and a note explaining her reason for not attending.

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MARKET



If NIXON and AGNEW think they are in a mess of trouble, it will be consolation for them to know that S.I.R. — the World's largest Homophile Organization — is in equally bad times. Two factions are pointing their scurrilous fingers at each other which is like the pot calling the kettle black. (Oppps!). We would like to quote from Vol. 3 No. 2 of January 24th, 1973 issue of B.A.R. "Maybe S.I.R. has bitten off more than it can chew. Every time any other organization comes up with an idea, S.I.R. rushes to put it into effect. It's like being a 'Jack of all trades and master of none' S.I.R. should stick with the thing it was founded for, which is INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS... You can help S.I.R. by going to the S.I.R. CENTER and voting for Robie Robillard for President. This is very important to Save S.I.R...." This prophecy was made and printed for all to see but like the pharisees of old, it was not heeded and now S.I.R. is in the clutches of greedy politically minded people on ego trips that would make for a complete nullification of all the good work previously undertaken and accomplished under that once proud banner of S.I.R. And for those who feel this column should not discuss S.I.R. problems, let us remind you that 83 6th Street is SOUTH OF MARKET.

LOOK-A-LIKE

At least two of SOM's habituates showed up at the Curren Theatre last week and attended the festivities later with Carol Channing in the Bellevue Hotel. They parked their bikes in the Sutter-Stockton Garage, took rooms at the Bellevue Hotel, where they changed from their sleek, sexy, black leather and chains with club overlays, and chrome

chain accessories into sleek, sexy white beaded chiffon gowns and a fancy hairdo and a string of matched pearls. Not a soul recognized who they were, and we won't tell. They had a ball. Guess who?

MISS FLEA MARKET??

What probably won't top, but will certainly threaten LORELEI for first place honors as being the highest camp of the year, will be the GRAND opening (after a year and a half) of NAOMI'S LEATHER BOUTIQUE in Space S14 at the Alameda Flea Market on Sunday, September 23rd from 10 to 3 PM. Easily found between the whistle selling Swiss warbler and the slightly used wheel chairs and hospital supplies. There, in the quaint nostalgia of what is perhaps the most popular gathering place in the Bay Area on any delightful Sunday afternoon will be a surprise theatrical guest star who will cut the satin ribbon surrounding space S14 and Naomi's Boutique will be officially and grandly opened. Male attire only, please. Champagne and assorted nibbling goodies will be served as the perennial host Perry will introduce Pat Montclair winner of the recent Carol Channing "Look-alike" contest and others in attendance including such popular Bay Area notables as LUSCIOUS LORELEI herself, Lori Shannon, KIMO, The Empress Maxine and Emperor Marcus I, Ray, the attractive Mr. San Francisco, Dog Lady Bill Roberts, Joe Roland who is Mr. Lithuania, Russ of FE-BE'S, Fern of JACKSON'S, Julie Miss Camp Coitillion, and the Good Fairy as well as the Bad Fairy of '73 and '72. Guest pianist Mr. Denis Moreen conductor of Pit Orchestras for several of the city's hit musical extravaganzas has been engaged to play on a white baby grand being brought in especially for the occasion. This grand opening promises to equal and top all of the similar grand openings, anniversaries, birthdays, Ego contests, and dubious charity affairs held in the city during the past ten years. Elaborate theatrical red carpet will cover the entire ground and a public address system is being installed so that those personalities who will be introduced will be able to say a brief word to the throng of on-lookers that will gather for the occasion. Flowers, potted plants, and souvenirs will complete the decor. MARY, that's a camp!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CONGRATULATIONS MISS

CHARLOTTE OF THE MINT on your fifteenth... We knew you'd make it because you have done so much for so many for so long that you need another fifty to complete your many kind generousities, sober decisions and deliberations as they will affect the Gay Community. The Bay Area would not be the wonderful place it is if you had decided to stay in FALL RIVER. You are a legend to those who know and love you.

SO WRONG EVERY BODY

Shame on you who have accused some of our informants and stringers as being the author of this column. If you really want to know who we are, you need only to write a card or letter to B.A.R. and say so. Your letters will determine if the revelation of the identity is really important.

PEANUTS-POPCORN

LOOK OUT RAMROD! Amazon Lil of the ROUND UP has installed a wide movie screen on which to show the newer films they have access to. It's as large as the one in the STRAND. This should make the viewers feel right at home. It's your move next Mr. Ramrod!

EMPEROR

This column does not support or endorse any of the worthy Emperor Candidates but it hopes either RUSS HIGGINBOTHAM or MICHAEL wins because we see them in more places SOUTH OF MARKET. NO other reason, believe us.

EMPRESS

As far as the EMPRESS Campaign is concerned isn't it a shoo-in for that flower foliage of Bay Street? Of course there is a dark horse in the person of Frieda (Oops) and she is a real nice person too. We never mets any of the others, perhaps they can't get around much anymore, if we are to judge their age to be the same as the past Empresses.

GAY INMATES

We hope the FOLSOM PRISON is more attractive and inviting then it's name implies. What a downer name to call a place and what little imagination the new owners must have. Even the suggested name of FOLSOM PRISM would have been better. Why flirt with adversity?

FEDERAL COURT

What probably will be a point of legal reference in years to come may well result from the legal battle being waged

by the LUMBER YARD against the City and County of San Francisco. The Board of Supervisors running for re-election had better bone-up on answers to that one, when they hit the Gay trial to ask for our votes. They woo us in September and oppress us the rest of the years - after election.

Congratulations to Jack of the LUMBER YARD and his courageous mother for bringing this oppressive situation to a Federal Hearing. The LUMBER YARD deserves your support.

CASUALTY CAPERS

It's impossible to call a SOM friend these days and expect him to join you for dinner, drinks or just cruising. Every last one of them is busy with rehearsals for the upcoming CASUALTY CAPERS. If there were five hundred at the CAPERS last year, look for 1,000 this year. Everybody including the fantastic cast of hundreds buy tickets for this theatrical spectacular and after their own number joins in the audience to applaud for the rest of the show. If you want a seat, come early this year because it promises to be a sell out for its TOP entertainment.

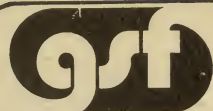
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WHO ELSE

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(Continued Next Page)



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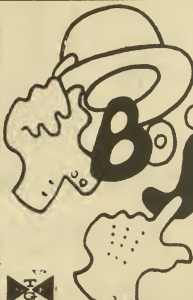


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MARCUS I

As you hand your nebulous crown to a successor MARCUS I, let us join in with the many other well wishers from SOUTH OF MARKET and thank you for a job well done. Well done against much adversity, criticism and petty jealousy. You have put your very life and reputation on the line for a cause you believed in, and whether others concurred or not, you have proceeded on a royal path with dignity, respect for others and above all absolute honesty, even if somewhat belated. You are the first gem in the crown of our Emperors and may you always shine brightly, giving light knowledge and experience to those who will succeed you.

"Una scopa nuova spazza bene"



ARTS & CRAFTS SCREENING FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO ART FESTIVAL

Purchase awards this year amount to \$15,000. The City has allocated \$5000 while the Home Savings and Loan Association of Los Angeles will purchase

\$10,000 worth of painting and sculpture, for the third consecutive year.

In order to compete, artists and craftsmen from nine Bay Area counties may submit their work to the Screening Committee at the San Francisco Art Commission's Capricorn Asunder Gallery, 165 Grove St., across from City Hall. Approval by one member of the screening panel will be sufficient for participation in the event.

Craftsmen will be reviewed on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 10 AM to 6 PM. They must bring five representative samples. Selected craftsmen must then meet at the Civic Center Plaza on the following day for their space assignments, from 8 AM to noon. Not acceptable will be hobby crafts using commercially produced designs, molds or patterns in the area of home arts or hobby collections; found materials; tumbled stones en masse; beads; lapidary stone work; leather items, such as hats, boots, purses, belts, shoes; furniture; commercially produced bronze buckles; commercially produced printed material.

Artists will be screened on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 10 AM to 6 PM, and they may submit two works in each medium

(painting, sculpture, photography, graphic prints, etc.). Paintings must be dry, framed and ready to hang. Sculpture can be no more than 150 pounds and must be at least 18 inches in any dimension. No work may be larger than six feet in any dimension for the Home Savings competition.

All entrants must reside in one of the nine Bay Area counties: San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano.

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Isn't it a shame that the 'cops' had to break into a 'Prison'... my, my.

Thank you Ken of Houston for the great ad in 'Data Boy'... I just loved it and it shows what great taste you have...

Don't forget to get out and vote for the Emperor Two... Sweet Lips Sez... vote for Russ...

Thank you Don of FE-BE'S for the FE-BE statue with the Lips on it... but in such a spot...

If you are ever in Palo Alto stop in at the KONA KAI for dinner and drinks... a great fun bar to visit and they know how to treat people.

Thank you J.C. for making the rug for Charlotte of the MINT's (50th) Birthday... she really loved it... Cristal and Lips enjoyed giving that nice little old lady such a deserving present... besides we had a great time at the party... I think.

Is it true that Robb's favorite song is the 'Candy Man'...

Lot of fun at the WINDJAMMER's Carnival the other Monday... you did a great job Keith and gang... loved your tunnel of love...

Good thing that Rex Ann has wide windows now that she has show time after two in the morning... my, my, Rex, the neighbors don't like wide screen T.B.

Well there are four contestants for the Empress de San Francisco the 9th... but I have to stick whom I think will be the best for the T.G. and for the unity of the city... so the Lips' is supporting 'FERN' for Empress... my, my.

Too bad we don't have Cecil Knockherwurst Weatherbee writing a column anymore as it could be a real hot and juicy one at the Empress time... so come out of retirement Cecil...

A record has been made at the beautiful downtown TURF CLUB... Joey Collier has been there for almost two months... are you going to have a party, Joey...

Is Miss Anchor Ass really 'Walfie's' husband... only the shadow knows right Rex Ann...

Is it true that the MINT now has a new side entrance... and Tommy Turner what were you doing resting all nite at what spot... my, my, Tommie.

Less, don't you trust Perry... why did you make her pay (by check) in advance for the round of drinks at the CAMP GROUNDS... wouldn't you know the first time in her 52 years, yes, that is right, 52 years I missed out on the only drink that Perry has ever bought... remember Perry you should never take the 5th Amendment.

Rose Buckley has moved again to the WINDJAMMER... seems as if George LeFeybre has finally moved off of Turk Street after all these years and replaced Rose at the 1001 NITES... hope the ladies in San Rafael know that you are there, George.

Too bad the Hyness, a self imposed title just like the Grand Duchess Perry's has such contempt for other newspapers... competition is fine Dippy Dauber and one in your business? you should realize it... age does show...

Hapy belated birthday to Don Scott of S.I.R. hope you have many more of them... The marriage has finally been consummated by Joe Roland and David... but did you have to use Roger's palatial mansion Joe... isn't your bed comfortable... my, my.

Congratulations to both of you... hope you can do it more often.

Is it true Perry, that you and Dirty Edna bumped it up at the Stevens Hotel in the early forties... who paid the hotel bill Perry... after all you are as frugal as Dirty Edna... that was Chicago.

Thank you Dennis of 'Sam's Place' in Long Beach for stopping in and saying hello to the Lips... we really do have a fun bar don't we.

Michael of Q.T. fame... is it true about your secret admirer...

Thank you Mr. Lips and hope to see you in early October...

SWEET LIPS

BAY AREA REPORTER

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George Wilbern is a man of many moods, and like the little girl who had a little curl, right down the middle of her forehead, when he is good he is very, very good, but when he is bad — RUN, don't walk, to the nearest exit, before you get eighty-sixed. We wondered how conducive these inconstant proclivities were to his varied screen career. We approached the subject cautiously as he is inclined to be rather silent about his film roles.

K: How would you describe your life history?

G: Very Joan Crawford — rags to riches. Today she has Pepsi and I have the RAMROD.

K: And I might add that you're both still stars of the first magnitude. Tell us about those early years in Hollywood. Do you still have many friends there.

G: Oh, yes, They're all in Forest Lawn, but I still go to visit them. I'm a Spiritualist, you know.

K: Have you ever communicated with any of them.

G: Oh, yes. Just recently I talked with Clara Bow. She asked me to get her a carton of Luckies. She was kidding, of course. Mostly we talk about the good old days.

K: Did you have difficulty adjusting to talkies in 1929?

G: Not at all. They never gave me any lines to say.

K: Then you share Gloria Swanson's distast for the sound boom?

G: Definitely. Talk, talk, talk. We had faces in those days.

K: I understand that this year's Film

Festival will hold a retrospective of your Hollywood career. What do they plan?

G: Well, first they'll show excerpts from all my important pictures and then there'll be a question and answer period. You'll get to see me in Phantom of the Opera, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Bride of Frankenstein, The Women, etc.

K: What do you consider your most challenging screen role?

G: I would say my part in "Freaks". I did it all without make-up you know, and I'll never forget that first day when I walked on the set they all started yelling "She's one of us!"

K: Yes, you were fabulous in that movie. How in the world did you manage to eat that live chicken.

G: It wasn't live — it was plastic.

K: Another shattered illusion. I can see why they call it Tinsel Town. Speaking of artificiality, what did you think of the recent Carol Channing look-alike contest.

G: A burlesque. She could never make it in Hollywood, you know. She just doesn't, and didn't, have the glamour that Loretta Young and Connie Bennett and I have. They cast Marilyn Monroe as Lorelei for the filmed version, you know, and as far as I'm concerned, she's the REAL Lorelei, and nobody, and I mean NO BODY, can ever duplicate her.

K: What are your plans for the future? Have you had any good offers lately.

G: I had a real good proposition at the TWENTY FIRST STREET BATHS last night.

K: I mean film offers.

G: Oh, Several firms want me to do TV commercials for them. Liquid Plumber, Mrs. Stewart's Blueing, Geritol — and one real cute one where I say "Vote yes on Preparation H."

K: What do you consider the biggest disappointment in your film life?

G: Well, I've never told this before — not even to Louella LeLieu, but, you know I made a porno flick that was never released in this country — we shot it on location in Tijuana — and it was a tremendous hit everywhere it was shown.

K: Then why the disappointment?

G: Well, my co-star was a big St. Bernard dog, and the dog won the Academy Award!

K: Oh, no! How sad. But how I know why you are the only star except Rin Tin Tin to wear a flea collar for a cocking!

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